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# What does Accreditation Mean to the Community

- Improved data quality
- Assurance of the competence of field sampling and testing organizations
- Accountability of all organizations in the measurement process
- Generating data of known and documented quality

*Do you know where your samples came from?*

# Will this program be required?

- No - regulation!
- Yes - contracts
  - When it is important for the data user to ensure that field activities are being performed competently
  - When data of known and documented quality are required by the user

# NEFAP Program Structure

## \* **TNI Board**

- Supervises/controls/directs affairs of TNI; determine its policies; and actively pursues its mission.
- [www.nelac-institute.org](http://www.nelac-institute.org)

## \* **NEFAP Executive Committee**

- Created as Separate Committee under TNI
- Policy coordinating and approval
- Responsible for Recognition of AB's

## \* **Field Activities Committee**

- Performs Development of Standards/Policies/Procedures

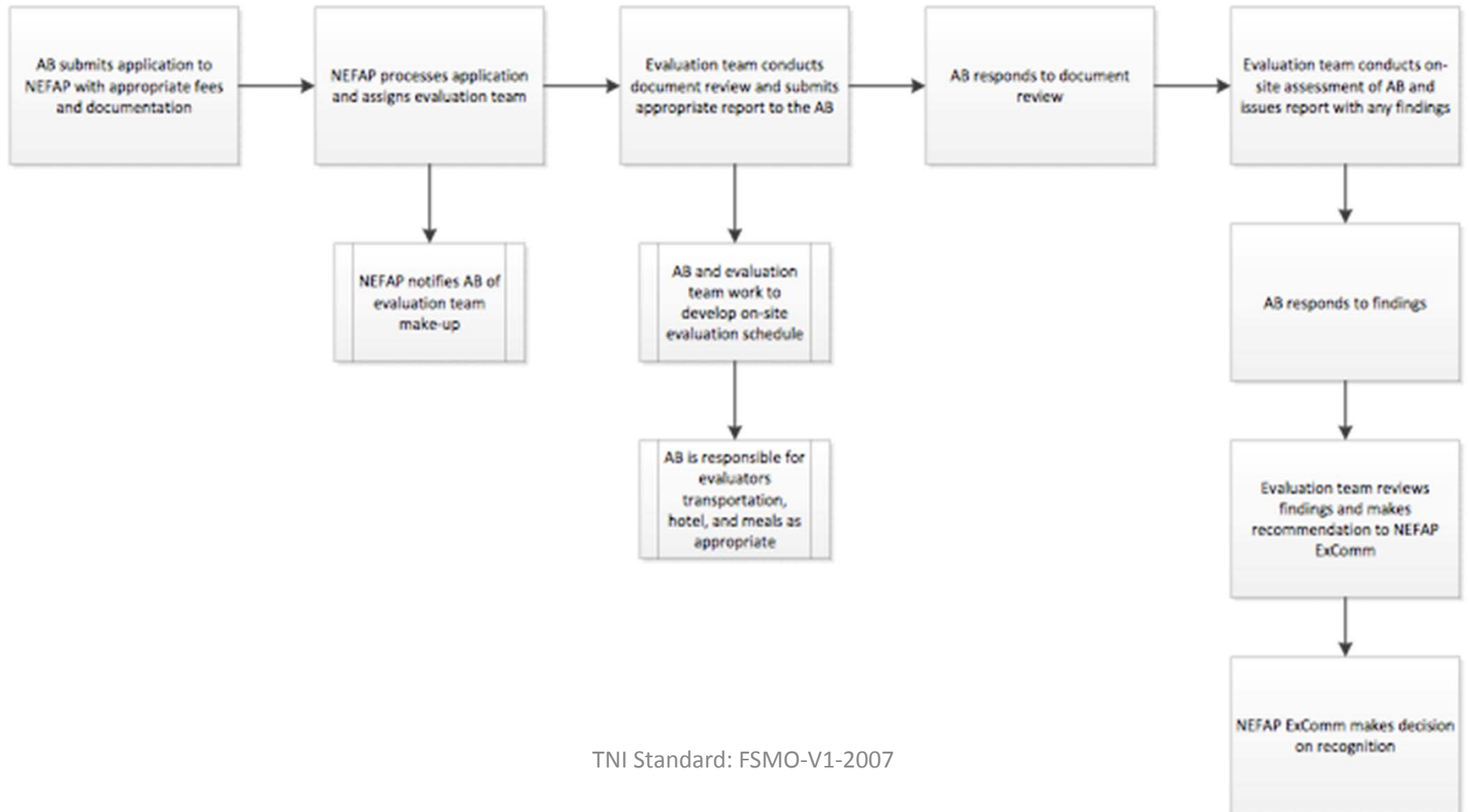
## \* **ABs**

- Recognized by NEFAP, Accredited to FSMO Standards

# Process Flow Chart

## Draft

## Executive Committee



# Standard for FSMO's

- The standard was developed, voted and adopted by FSMOs, regulators and others in the stake holder community.
- It is one of a kind!
- Written for any type of field sampling and testing
  - Builds of the foundation of ISO/IEC 17025!

# Why TNI...

- Why chose the TNI standard and not others
  - ISO 9000
  - ISO/IEC 17020
  - ISO 14000
  - ASTM, USGS, EPA, Etc.
  - XXXXXX, XXX or XXXX



# Benefits to Laboratories

**REDUCE DATA VARIABILITY AND  
UNCERTAINTY!!!**

# Benefits to Laboratories

- Standardized reporting
- Thorough documentation provides labs with data on where sample came from
- Sample will be taken in consideration of environmental conditions, less sample contamination
- Representative samples taken to meet project DQO's

# Benefits to Laboratories

- Know where sample came from
- Known homogeneity in advance
- Better coordination/communication between samplers and lab
- QA/QC samples
- Commitment to quality will reduce the number of errors/issues with samples submitted

# Benefits to Laboratories

- Better documentation with samples
- Better coordination/communication between samplers and lab
- Proper sample custody procedures
- Better sample handling and transfer procedures
- Progressing from unknown to known...

# Benefits to FSMO's

## **Establishes Foundation of Management Systems**

- \* Clearly define roles and responsibilities/interactions
- \* Establish clear procedures for documentation and control of documents
- \* Need to have clear procedures for contracts, subcontracting, purchasing and the evaluation of these.

# Benefits to FSMO's

**Requirements Set a Clear Path to Improvement  
Tools are laid out in Standard:**

- \* Corrective Actions
- \* Preventive Actions
- \* Complaint Tracking
- \* Review and Control of Non-Conforming Work

**Following the Standard Facilitates Improved Quality!!!**

# Benefits to FSMO's

## **Outlines Auditing and Review Process**

- \* Ensure auditing and tracking of field staff
- \* Ensures performance is reviewed
- \* Annual management review to evaluate all elements of system and determine areas for improvement

# Benefits to FSMO's

## **Outlines Technical Requirements Which Will Improve Quality of Organizational Performance**

- \* Prescribes the need to outline personnel requirements
  - \* Job Descriptions
  - \* Knowledge/Experience Requirements
  - \* Demonstration of Capability Requirements



# Benefits to FSMO's

## **Structure for Dealing with Equipment**

- \* Maintenance
- \* Tracking/Performance
- \* Evaluation of equipment needed
- \* Training
- \* Documentation

# Benefits to FSMO's

- Marketing Advantage!
- Demonstrate to clients your commitment to data quality
- Establish a reputation as a leader in the industry
- Reduced errors/ resampling events
- Improved management processes/systems facilitate potential cost savings
- Makes the entire process transparent and defensible

# What does it take to become accredited

- Prepare internally
- Go to the recognized ABs and talk with them
  - Find the best fit for your organization
- Apply for accreditation
- Follow the process
- Achieve Accreditation

# Preparing your Application

- Watch TNI website for recognized ABs
- Talk to different AB's, get a feel for which suits your organization and accreditation needs
- Gather required documents for evaluation
- Prepare application as required by AB

# Preparing for FSMO Assessment

- Do Internal Gap Analysis
- Implement Standard Vol. I
  - Write QM
  - Write SOPs
  - Train Personnel
  - Prepare records as perform work to demonstrate SOPs implements
- Become accredited!!!!

# Next Steps for NEFAP...

- \* **Full Program Launch and Implementation**
- \* **FSMO's begin to Apply for Accreditation**
- \* **Establish Voluntary Adoption/Formal Acceptance of NEFAP in Contracts and Regulatory Programs**
- \* **Promote Government Acceptance of FSMO Accreditation Program**
- \* **Advocacy – Spread the Word Throughout the Community of the Merits of NEFAP!!!**

Date	Step
September - Ongoing	AB Applications made to TNI NEFAP Executive Committee for review
May 1, 2011	Application from ABs accepted – Announcement made on TNI website of ABs with acceptable applications. FSMOs may apply to ABs with acceptable applications. (Other ABs can be added as received, reviewed and accepted)
August 2011	Announce AB meeting initial application review TNI meeting
May 2011	FSMO applications received by ABs
October Ongoing	Receive resumes from evaluators Review and form evaluation teams for each applicant Receive acceptance from AB on evaluation team members
February 14, 2011	Evaluator training for NEFAP- Webinar 1 day (6 hours). Training on SOP and additions to ISO/IEC 17011
March 22, 2011	Assessor training for NEFAP- Webinar 1 day (6 hours). Training on TNI FSMO standard – Experienced assessors to ISO/IEC 17025
June, 2011	Assessor training for NEFAP – face to face – new assessors including FSMOs who want to use the training for internal audits
June - December 2011	Perform on-site evaluation or review documentation as per procedure
June - December 2011	Perform witness assessment (evaluators observe AB assessor perform FSMO assessment)
January 2012	Announce AB recognition TNI website
After May 2011	PTs available for FSMOs using field techniques (e.g. XRF) as required by LQSR 3.0. Other PTs for FSMOs to be developed as identified.
On-going	Follow Evaluation SOP for process after recognition Add other ABs with applications received after January, 2011

**“The Quality of the Data Can  
Only be as Good as the  
Quality of the Sample”**

**Environmental Data Quality Cannot Be Guaranteed Unless  
There Are Quality  
Standards for All Steps of the Sample  
Collection and Analysis Process.**



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